



City of **HOBART**

## **BARKING DOG COMPLAINTS**

The City of Hobart enforces the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

### **Stage 1**

Upon receipt of a written complaint to Council regarding a barking dog, a letter is sent to the dog owner notifying them a complaint has been received.

Often the dog owner is simply unaware their dog is causing a barking nuisance, particularly if they are at work.

Some dog owners utilise the services of a dog behaviour specialist to assist them with the nuisance barking. This may take some time to achieve a positive outcome. In some cases it may require the dog owner to install additional fencing or to create a barrier if the dog is stimulated by sight.

### **Stage 2**

If you feel there is no improvement in the barking after a letter has been sent to the dog owner, you will be required to lodge a formal complaint. This is pursuant to Section 47 of the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

Please contact the Animal Management Unit on 6238 2190 who will provide you with a formal complaint form and a barking diary to be completed over a 2 week period.

These documents then need to be lodged at Council, along with the formal complaint fee of **\$75** as outlined in Section 47(b) of the *Dog Control Act 2000*. Once the formal complaint form, the diary and the fee have been received Council will begin their investigation into the complaint.

It can be difficult at times to determine how long the investigation process may take to prove whether a barking nuisance exists. If Council are able prove that a nuisance does exist, then the complaint fee is refunded to the complainant and penalties will apply to the dog owner.

Please be aware that your privacy will remain at all times unless Council are unable to determine whether nuisance barking exists and you wish to pursue the matter further. This would then result in you being called as a witness to attend a Court hearing to provide evidence.